Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: I want to ascertain from the Government whether the Railway Advisory Committee exists even now and if so the name of the Travancore representative in that Committee. My information is that a non-official member was representing Travancore in that Committee.

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Aiyar: The member representing the Travancore Government is the Financial Secretary to Government. He is attending meetings whenever possible.

President: It was found by experience quite recently, especially during the last one year or two, that most of the matters that came up before the Railway Board was so divorced from anything connected with Travancore that it was hardly worth-while sending anybody other than the Financial Secretary. Later on when normal conditions are restored, a non official will probably be sent.

The question that Government be granted Rs. 59,300 under Demand VI—Railways was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VII—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INCLUDING WATER WORKS AND DRAINAGE.

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 55,03,560 under Demand VII—Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഗ്രാൻറിനെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. വളരെക്കാലമായി ഒരു ജനപ്രതിനിധിയുടെ നിലയിൽ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റി ആക്ഷേപിച്ചു് സങ്കടത്തോടുകൂടി അഭിപ്രായപ്രകടനങ്ങളും നടത്തുവാനാണു് എനിക്കു് ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. എന്നാൽ ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തിലാകട്ടെ ഒരു സന്തോഷവാക്കു പറയുവാൻ എനിക്കു് ഇടയാകുന്നതിൽ വളരെ ചാരിതാർത്ഥ്യമുണ്ടു്. ഗവൺമെൻറിൽ ആലപ്പുഴ താലൂക്കിനെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിച്ചു കൊണ്ടു് ശ്രീമൂലം പ്രജാസഭയിലും എനിക്കു ഹാജരാകുവാൻ സന്ദർഭങ്ങളായിട്ടുള്ള അവസരങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം ഈ സഭകളിൽവെച്ചും ആലപ്പുഴ—ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി റോഡിനെക്കുറിച്ചു് തുടർച്ചയായി നിവേദനങ്ങളും നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്; അതിൻറെ പൂർത്തീകരണത്തിനായി അനവരതം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെയും ഗവൺമെൻറിനെയും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഇരുന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു. ഓരോകാലത്തു ഓരോ സംഗതികളും പറഞ്ഞു് അതാതുകാലങ്ങളിലുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറിമാർ കൗശലപൂർവ്വം ഒഴിഞ്ഞുമാറിക്കളയുകയാണു് ചെയ്തതു്. ഇക്കൊല്ലം യാതൊരു കൗശലവും കൂടാതെ അതിലേക്കുള്ള തുക അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

എന്നു കാണുന്നതു്, ഏറ്റവും സന്തോഷപ്രദമായ ഒരു കാര്യമാകുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനമായ ഒരു സഞ്ചാരമാർഗ്ഗമായി, കൃഷിപരവും ഗതാഗതപരവും കച്ചവടസംബന്ധവുമായി വളരെ പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ള തെന്നാണു് ആലപ്പുഴ—ചങ്ങനാശേരിത്തോടു് ഇതുയും സാധിപ്പിച്ചുതന്നതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെയും ചീഫ് എൻജീയർ അവർകളെയും പ്രത്യേകമായും അനുമോദിച്ചാലും മതിയാകുന്നതല്ല.

അതുപോലെ റിലീഫ് വർക്ക്സിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി ആലപ്പുഴ—ചങ്ങനാശേരി പുതിയ തോടും റോഡും പണിയിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പണവും ഇക്കൊല്ലം അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ആ പ്രദേശത്തുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ ക്ഷാമനിലയെ പരിഗണിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഈ പണികൾ വളരെ ആവശ്യം തന്നെയാണു് അതുകൊണ്ടു് പട്ടിണിയിൽ കിടന്നുഴലുന്ന അവിടത്തെ ആളുകൾക്കു് ഒരു രക്ഷാമാർഗ്ഗമായും അനുഗ്രഹമായും തീരത്തക്കവിധം വേണ്ടുവന്നാൽ കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യ അനുവദിച്ചും ഈ പണികൾ തുടർന്നു നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകണമെന്നു് എനിക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു് പ്രത്യേകം അപേക്ഷയുണ്ടു്.

ഈ പ്രശ്നത്തിൽ ഒരു പുതിയ അഭിപ്രായംകൂടി പരിചിന്തനത്തിനായിട്ടു കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. ആലപ്പുഴ ചന്തപ്പാലത്തിൽ നിന്നും ആലപ്പുഴ ക്ഷേത്രത്തിൻറെ കിഴക്കുവശം വരെ ഏകദേശം രണ്ടു മൈൽ ദൂരത്തിൽ ഒരു തോടുണ്ടു്. ഇതിനിടയിൽ രണ്ടു മൈൽ ദൂരം നന്നാക്കാമെങ്കിൽ ആലപ്പുഴക്കും അമ്പലപ്പുഴക്കും മദ്ധ്യേ ഒരു പുതിയ പട്ടണം സൃഷ്ടിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കും. അതിനു വലിയ ചെലവുണ്ടാകയില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ തന്നെ രണ്ടു ഫർലാങ്കു നീളത്തിൽ തോടുകൾ വെട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ആലപ്പുഴ—ചങ്ങനാശേരി റോഡിൻറെ സ്കീം എടുക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ആ നാട്ടിലെ കൂലിവേലക്കാർക്കു ധാരാളം ജോലി കിട്ടുന്നതാണു്. ഓരോ മൈൽ തോടു വെട്ടുന്നതോടുകൂടിത്തന്നെ ഓരോ മൈൽ റോഡും തീർത്തുകൊണ്ടുവരും. ഇതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന മണ്ണു് തോടു വെട്ടുന്നതിൽ നിന്നും എടുക്കാവുന്നതാണു്. ഈ തോടിനേയും റോഡിനേയും നന്നാക്കി എടുക്കാമെങ്കിൽ ആ പ്രദേശത്തുള്ള മത്സ്യവ്യവസായത്തിനു സാരമായ പുരോഗതി ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണു്. ആയതിനാൽ ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ പറയുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള ഒരു സ്കീം ചീഫ് എൻജനീയർ അവർകൾ അടുത്തകാലത്തുതന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിലേക്കു സമർപ്പിക്കണമെന്നപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. വേറൊന്നു്, കുട്ടനാട്ടിലെ വഴികൾ പലതും നികന്നുപോകുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് പല പരാതികളുമുണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടു്. ആ വിഷയത്തിലും ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിയണമെന്നു് അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, in supporting the Demand, I wish to bring to the notice of Government a little matter regarding the giving of toll contract. I am told—I should like to be corrected if I am wrong—that, year after year, a man from outside—a foreigner under the Extradition Act, one Chettiyar is given this contract, and what follows seems to be the method adopted by him. He does not openly compete even. When all have made their offers, a private letter comes from this Chettiyar with an offer of Rs. 100 or more than the highest offer that time. I should like to be corrected if I am wrong. I was told that tolls in Aramboly, Kuzhithura, Neriamangalam etc., are collected by this foreigner. Some people here had offered higher rates, and soon after knowing this, this Chettiar sends a private letter offering a little more than the other men. I was told that this was the method last year too, and this selfsame Chettiyar was the contractor. So much so, every Travancorean is under the impression that this time also the contract would go to that Chettiyar and so many of the people are not competing. But when local people have understood that it cannot be in fact anything like a monopoly to him, and that others can compete on equal terms, again probably this Chettiyar will come in with a private offer, to the Department or to Government if that is so.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: May I know from where was this information.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: I like the war-like tone of my friend Mr. Sankara Menon. Nevertheless I must be polite to my friend, Mr. Menon. I regret, I am not in a position to disclose the source of my information. Therefore, I request Government and the Department to see that the toll contracts are put to public auction in a proper manner.

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Sir, In the first place the contract for this year has not yet been finally settled. The offer this year is about half a lakh more than that of last year. There were several tenders and it is not an uncommon feature-it so happened in previous years—that, people who really did not intend to run these toll gates submitted their tenders and then some sort of negotiation took place among them. Then some of them withdrew their tenders. This time also it has happened. Some people tendered and before the tenders were opened, applications for withdrawal were received.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I point out that the talk is that at the instance of that shrewd business man one or two bogus tenders were sent in and withdrawn.

Mr. I. C. Chacko: If the other tenderer yield to their persuasion, Government cannot do anything in the matter.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: My point is whether the Government will accept the highest offer made at the public auction ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Government interests will not in any way be allowed to suffer.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: Sir, it is rather unfortunate that on the strength of baseless rumours, the honourable member is—

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: I am asking for information. I do not want this rhetorical outburst.

President: But the honourable member has asked for information with a number of insinuations.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: No, Sir.

President: Order, order. And those insinuations must be answered.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: They were not.

President: Order, order.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, I was referring to contracts.

President: Order, order. The member was indulging in insinuations and I must say that the ruling of the Chair is final. The speech of the honourable member based on rumour in full of insinuations.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: As a ruling I do not question it.

President: It was full of insinuations against the honesty of Government and against the uprightness of Government officers.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: Sir, it is entirely unfounded to suggest that the disposal of contracts in relation to the collection of tolls depends on personal considerations or that any discrimination is being exercised by Government against some among those who have tendered.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: I want facts please

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: I am coming to facts because no facts have been placed before the House, by the honourable member. I say these rumours are entirely unfounded. Government proceed on certain settled principles in regard to the settlement of contracts. Tenders are invited, quotations are given by several persons and they are opened in the proper manner by the Head of the Department and if at the time of opening or before opening certain tenderers withdraw their tenders, Government can do nothing in that respect. Further, if people offer tenders

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

merely with a view to see whether they could negotiate for profit with some one who might be found ultimately to secure the contract, Government can take no responsibility for such conduct. There are some people who have come merely to exploit the situation with a view to gain an unfair profit. As regards the foreigner referred to by my friend, I may say that he is no stranger. It was found that his was the highest tender in previous years and he has been fulfilling his contract satisfactorily, Government might therefore repose confidence in him. Persons there may be who without any financial backing make offers and higher tenders but fail to fulfil their contract in the middle of the year. This would mean a re-auction resulting perhaps in considerable loss to Government.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I ask whether there was no honest Travancorean to tender for this?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: There were some and one of them has withdrawn his tender. When confirming a contract, Government will take into consideration the financial status and capacity of the man to fulfil the contract in order that Government interests may be safeguarded. I can assure the honourable House that there will be no favour shown to any particular individual. The whole system is worked in the best interests of Government and not in the interests of any particular individual.

President: Has not the highest tender been withdrawn?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: The highest with respect to a few toll gates was withdrawn, I might also submit that a certain Travancorean sent a letter later on, after all the tenders had been opened saying that he should be given another opportunity for all the toll gates to take up the contracts together at rates somewhat higher than those of others.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Am I to understand that no Travancorean offered the highest tender after the tenders were opened?

President: Evidently there has been a lot of rumours going round that some persons had withdrawn their tenders before these were opened. There are certain rules which Government have laid down in regard to fixing contracts by calling for tenders. I may restate them with advantage. Where auctions are held, there is no duty cast on the Government to accept the highest tender, because the highest tenderer might be a pure speculator or one with absolutely no equipment for the purpose. Unless Government are satisfied that the highest tenderer is a man who can fulfil the contract, the highest tender is not necessarily accepted and that is laid down in the contract itself whenever it is invited. Subject to that, where number of people compete, the highest tenderer will always be chosen.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

There is another aspect with regard to toll-gate contracts. It has so happened that very high rates are quoted for one or two or three toll-gates They do not wish to tender for other toll-gates. I find that there are people who tender for all the toll gates in the State. It is much more convenient for Government to deal with a person who tenders for the whole of the State than to deal with a number of people who might each take up one toll gate here and one toll gate there. But if the disparity is great, as has happened last year, when a particular toll gate was given to a particular person, and he after a certain time failed to fulfil his contract that it had to be re-auctioned. There is no case in which private negotiations are conducted by Government after the tenders are opened. That is not considered by Government to be right. No private negetiations are conducted after the tenders are opened.

Mr. T. K. Kitten : (*interruption*).

President : Order, order. I shall make the position clear as I have now got the facts relating to the toll-gates contract. The highest tenderer who tendered for all the toll-gates together was one Mallayan Chettiyar. There was no other person who tendered a higher amount. After the tender was opened, and his tender was known to be the highest one, one belonging to the firm called Sarma Brothers said that they would offer somewhat more than anybody else. The Government came to the conclusion that people who came and made such offers should not be encouraged because it was a dishonest offer and therefore they declined to accept that tender.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I ask the Chief Engineer whether there was nobody else who offered?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : The other offers were much lower.

Mr. T. K. Kitten: സർ, ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ രണ്ടു ചീഫ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയറന്മാർ ഉണ്ടെന്നു കാണുന്നു. വേറെ ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലും അപ്രകാരം കാണുന്നില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ ഉ മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരെ വച്ചാൽ ഒരു പണിയും നടക്കുകയില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഫ ഫനാൽ കുമരകത്തു ഒരു പാലം കെട്ടണമെന്നു തീരുമാനിച്ചു. ഇതുവരെ അതിന്റെ പണി കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. ഫ വ മാസങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പു എം. സി. റോഡിൽ, ൻ വ മൈലിൽ ഒരു ഫർലാംഗിനു സമീപം ഉള്ള ഒരു പാലത്തെ പൊളിച്ചിട്ടു. അതിനു ശേഷം യാതൊന്നും അവിടെ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. ഫ ഫ വ അവസാനത്തിൽ വ ൦ ൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ നാഗമ്പടം പാലത്തിൽ പണിക്കായി ചെലവായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു കണക്കിൽ കാണുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അവിടെ യാതൊരു പണിയും നടന്നിട്ടില്ല. വ ൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ ചെലവായിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു കണക്കിൽ കാണുന്നതു പിശകാണെങ്കിൽ അതിനെ തിരുത്തണം. അവിടെ പണി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഒന്നും നടന്നിട്ടില്ല. ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് പുസ്തകത്തിൽ അപ്പൻഡിക്സ്. സി. പേജ് നമ്പർ – അതുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അടുത്ത പേജ് നമ്പർ ആണെന്നു കാണുന്നു. പിശകാണെങ്കിൽ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തണം.

Mr. I. C. Chacko: ഈ പുസ്തകത്തിൽ ശരിയായിട്ടാണ് കാണുന്നത്.

Mr. T. K. Kitten: ഞാൻ ഈ പുസ്തകം കൊണ്ടുവന്നുകാണിക്കാം. എന്റെ പുസ്തകത്തിൽ തെറ്റായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നത്.

President: How is that?

Mr. T. K. Kitten: നാഗംപടം പാലത്തിനു രൂ 0 0 0 0 തുപാ ചെലവായിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു കാണുന്നു. അവിടെ പണി ഒന്നും നടന്നിട്ടില്ല.

President: Please refer to the page in the budget.

Mr. T. K. Kitten: ഈ പുസ്തകത്തിൽ രണ്ടു പേജ് കാണുന്നില്ല.

President: I think there is some fatality surrounding the honourable member. I think last year also he complained about the loss of one page in the budget. He may be given another copy of the budget. There are two hours more for this demand, so that there will be one hour tomorrow also. The honourable member may study the book fully and speak tomorrow.

Mr. T. K. Kitten: ഞാൻ അങ്ങനെ ഈ പുസ്തകത്തിന്റെ തെറ്റു കാണിച്ചുതരാം. എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം ഇപ്പോൾ നിറുത്തുന്നു.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Sir, I support the demand in order to point out the necessity for completing certain works lying unfinished for which I have been agitating from year to year. I also want to refer to the urgency of completing the Nagampadam bridge about which Mr. Kitten spoke. I also wish to refer to the Chalakkal Canal on which some amounts have been spent in previous years and which is still lying unfinished. There are also several other small channels and canals in the Kuttanad area which will increase navigation and irrigation facilities. I believe that the new Irrigation Officer will take up the question in consultation with the local people. The question of water supply to Kuttanad is very important. I believe the Government have already spent a good amount, but the work has not been carried out successfully. I would pray that it may be taken up as an emergent work and carried out as early as possible. Another work of equal importance in the Alleppey-Changanacherry Canal. Some work has been done in some portion of it. I request that the work may be completed as early as possible. It is not a very costly work; it need not be completed in one year; it may be gradually done in the course of two or three years.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. P. N. Neelakanta Pillai: Sir, I support the demand. In doing so I wish to bring to the notice of the Chief Engineer the importance of opening the Keralapuram-Puyapalli road in the Quilon Division. Considering the importance of the road Government sanctioned an estimate and the first section of the work was completed before 1933. Now it is ten years but nothing has been done farther. In the year 1933 the Government changed their policy in regard to the ryot's roads. Government said that unless the people who are in need of such roads surrendered the lands and performed the necessary earth work Government will not open the road.

Accordingly private lands were purchased and surrendered to Government and the necessary earth work was also done and the fact was reported to the Executive Engineer, Quilon. For that a reply was given dated 28-5-1941, No. 2327 to the effect that the Sub-Division Officer, Shencottah, has been directed to inspect the place and report on the matter. It is two years since the Sub-Division Officer was asked to report, I do not know what had taken place.

In the year 1116 those lands were purchased as per sale deeds Nos. 3451 and 3452 of 1116 and surrendered, but unfortunately even to-day we are compelled to pay the tax to the Government.

President : Order, order. I leave it to the decision of the House to rise at 5-30 P. M. or sit till 6 P. M.

The House agreed to rise at 5-30 P. M.

President : The House will now adjourn and meet again at 12 noon tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 5-30 P. M.

B. PARAMU,
Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly